

From: barak
To: Microsoft ATR
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Subject: Microsoft Settlement

I think the proposed settlement is bad idea and will do nothing to prevent Microsoft from continuing their anticompetitive practices. Microsoft should be fined heavily. I think it is safe to say that in a competitive market no single player will have a market share greater than 50%. That would then imply that any market share that Microsoft held over the first 50% was a result of their anticompetitive practices and any profit that resulted from that excess market share was acquired illegally. I feel that the only effective remedy for this is to fine them for the entire amount of the illegally acquired profits over the last 10 years. The funds from the fines should be used to develop a public domain operating system and office suite that is compatible with the Microsoft offerings. Another option, since the fines would not doubt be huge and require liquidation of some of Microsoft's holdings, would be to seize intellectual property of an equivalent value, perhaps the source code to Office or Windows, and release it into the public domain. Questionable OEM bundling practices forced the American people to fund the development of those products every time we bought a computer, isn't it time we were given what we have been paying for?